

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2016 3:21 PM
To: HarborComments
Subject: Clean up our toxic river

Dear Administrator Gina McCarthy,

We have to revise the draft cleanup plan for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site.

Improving the health of our river for people and wildlife is absolutely necessary. The cost of doing so should be considered in terms of the tremendous benefit for generations of people to come... people who are now either too poor to avoid the river's fish, or too frightened by its toxicity to enjoy its benefits.

We must have a big-picture perspective, that holds polluters accountable, and returns the river to the people-- both of today, and tomorrow.

The following changes are needed:

1. EPA should select Alternative G with additional dredging in areas of high human use, areas of high ecological value, and areas where there is high risk of recontamination of the river.
2. EPA should set much clearer timelines and metrics for success including setting an explicit date by which Portland Harbor specific fish consumption advisories will be lifted.
3. EPA should select an alternative that allows all members of our community to eat fish safely from our river, including woman of childbearing age and children.
4. EPA's cleanup plan should include the heavily contaminated uplands as well as the heavily contaminated river.
5. EPA should do a much better job of addressing environmental justice issues, including reviewing and correcting significant deficiencies in its public engagement strategies for future phases of the Superfund process and delineating strategies for ensuring the jobs, economic benefits and other benefits associated with the Superfund process to the local community and particularly to underserved communities that have been impacted by contamination in Portland Harbor.
6. EPA should eliminate the confined disposal facility which would create a permanent toxic waste dump in our river.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Portland, OR 97206

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